

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Vermont has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling, that dates back further than the state itself and continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Vermont sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Vermont Board of Fish Commissioners in 1866 - which later became the Fish and Game Commission and eventually the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department - to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats; and, through its license fees helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported excise taxes on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is funded primarily by sportsmen and women, through the American System of Conservation Funding - a "user pays - public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful system of fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, Vermont's sportsmen and women generated \$15,131,722 through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department; and

WHEREAS, Vermont's 254,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy by spending more than \$442 million each year to engage in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, this spending supports over 6,800 jobs in Vermont and generates \$50 million in state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation, and to our society;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor of the State of Vermont, and do hereby proclaim September 24, 2016 as

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

in Vermont, and recognize the social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 12th day of September, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", followed by a long horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor